

Alter

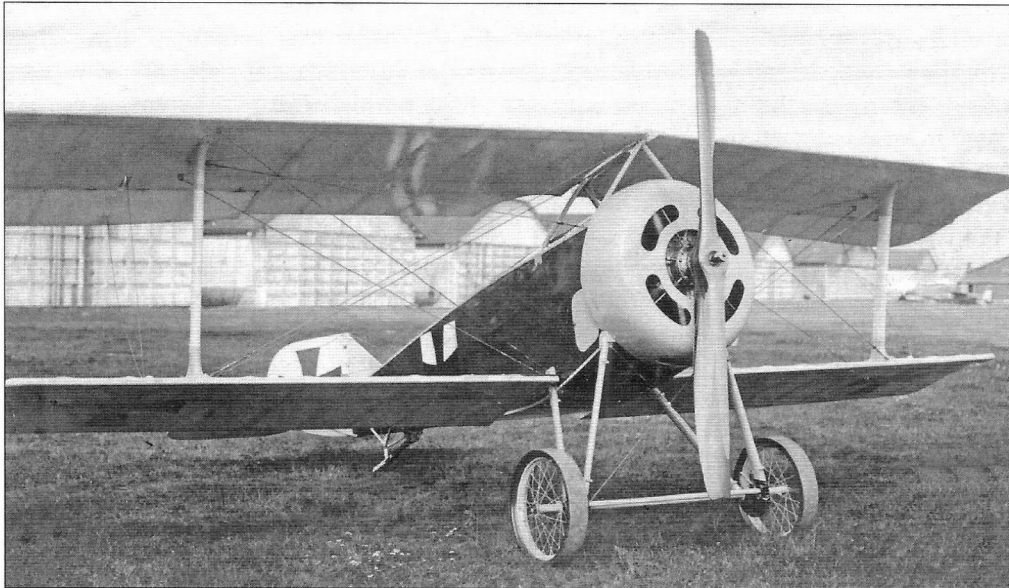
The firm had been established in 1871 in Darmstadt as a general trading company. After the death of Ludwig Alter, the founder, in 1915, the firm was remodeled as an aircraft factory. The firm had been engaged in the production of furniture and domestic goods pre-war. The factory specifically repaired Albatros, D.F.W, and Aviatik machines. The company also supplied military vehicle wheels, ammunition boxes, and all types of boxes for military purposes as well as hangars. It is assumed that these would have been pre-fabricated wooden

hangars. With the commencement of aeronautical activities, the staff remained at about 300 workers with engineers Kallweit and Ketterer in charge, with Herr Georg Seel as the firm's test pilot.

In October 1916 the firm received an order for a copy of the Nieuport fighter.

The overhaul and repair of aircraft was the firm's main activity till the end of hostilities. The firm's experience with wood working was helpful, but it experienced great difficulty in the early days due to the lack of skilled workers, especially metal

workers. Later it was in a position to respond to the demands that the military placed on it.



Left & Below: The one original Alter design was the Alter A.I fighter that was an approximate copy of the Nieuport fighter with modified wing cellule. The engine was an 80 hp Oberursel U.0 7-cylinder rotary. Note the two cowling variations, one with spinner. (Peter M. Grosz collection, STDB)

